



SCHOOL NUTRITION TEAM

School Nutrition News

Volume 13 No 3 Spring 2021

SNT Member Update

Farewell to Gina Kulka, Nutrition Program Consultant, who retired in March after 7 years at DPI and previously 17 years as a school nutrition director. Gina has also been active in the School Nutrition Association (SNA) since 1997. She looks forward to traveling and spending time with family in her retirement.



FEATURED STORIES

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New Wisconsin Local
Foods Database

GOALS Updates

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable
Program in Wisconsin

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Training

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Wisconsin Chili Lunch 2021

Thank you to everyone who sourced local ingredients for the Wisconsin Chili Lunch last month! A record 111 schools, ECE sites, and other organizations registered to serve over 38,000 eaters at 330 sites across the state for the third annual Wisconsin Chili Lunch! View inspiring photos on the [WCL Facebook](#) page and download the Chili Lunch Guide with recipes from the website [here](#).



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE 27-30, 2021
[School Nutrition Association
of Wisconsin Annual
Conference](#)

Wisconsin Dells, WI

OCTOBER 2021
[National Farm to School
\(F2S\) Month](#)

The New Wisconsin Local Foods Database

The AmeriCorps Farm to School team has been developing a statewide resource for several years to help connect Wisconsin farmers with school nutrition directors. This project was started by Megan Wise, a passionate AmeriCorps member, who wanted to help facilitate sustained relationships between farms and schools. Since then, the [Wisconsin Local Foods Database](#) has grown into a website that includes the whole state. The database contains detailed information on farms throughout Wisconsin to help school nutrition directors easily find and maintain partnerships with local farm businesses (and vice versa). The goal is to connect as many schools as possible to their local producers. Any farmer/producer wanting to connect with schools is welcome to sign up by [filling out this form](#) to become a part of the database.

In addition to collecting farmer information to share with school food service directors, the database includes information from school food service directors who are interested in local products so that we can share that database with farmers/producers. To sign up to be a part of the School Nutrition Director Database, you can [fill out this form](#). Anyone interested in working with Wisconsin producers are encouraged to sign up!

To learn more about this project, please visit our [website](#). If you have any questions, please contact Kara Ignasiak at kara.ignasiak@dpi.wi.gov.

The Wisconsin Local Foods Database is a project of the AmeriCorps Farm to School program, which is housed at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.



The database contains detailed information on farms throughout Wisconsin in order to help school nutrition directors easily find and maintain partnerships with local farm businesses (and vice versa).

GOALS Updates

The GOALS Team continues to develop new materials to make the GOALS certification process easier to understand and complete. The new [Elective Course](#) resource will assist GOALS participants in finding allowable elective hours that interest them. This resource accompanies the recently developed [Required Course](#) resource. Interested in learning more about GOALS? Visit the [GOALS webpage](#) to learn about the GOALS curriculum and access application materials.



Congratulations to the following school nutrition professionals who have recently earned their GOALS Certificate:

- Caren Johnson, Plymouth School District
- Jennifer Derks, Newman Catholic Schools
- Jennifer Kapinus, North Crawford School District

Small Victories 2021 Training

The Spring [Small Victories Training](#) is available online. There are two self-paced e-learning courses available; *Farm to School* and *Serving Line Essentials*. A recording of the one-hour live virtual session from April 28, 2021 is available online through June 1, 2021.

Small Victories training is designed to celebrate the unique situations specific to schools with small student enrollments.



SNACS Updates

Did you know that SNT's School Nutrition Accountability Software (SNACS) can be used for much more than Administrative Review? It is the perfect solution for smaller districts that currently manage their participation in school nutrition programs through manual processes. SNACS is free to use, and users have access to the SNACS online free/reduced meal application. SNACS also helps with application approval and direct certification processes, offers step-by-step guidance through the annual verification process, contains a student information system and much more.

To learn more about using SNACS and the many features SNACS offers, visit the [SNACS webpage](#) and use the "Schedule a Demo" button to request a live demo of the software with a member of the SNACS Support Team. If you think you might be interested in using SNACS for the 2021-2022 School Year, please schedule a demo before the end of May.

If you have any questions, please contact the SNACS Team at DPISNACSSupport@dpi.wi.gov.



SNT's School Nutrition Accountability Software (SNACS) can be used for much more than Administrative Review.

NEW! Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition

The USDA and the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) have collaborated to create the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN), a new division of the ICN. The CICN will provide a variety of resources for school nutrition professionals to assist them in developing healthy and flavorful meals that are student-approved.

Check out the new [CICN website](#) for access to these resources, including recipes, videos, and monthly webinars.



Around the World in 80 Trays - Success from Schools

Thank you to all schools that participated in DPI's second annual Around the World in 80 Trays campaign, the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January. The campaign aims to introduce more international flavors in school meals. Despite the challenges of serving school meals in a pandemic, cuisines from all over the world were served, highlighting the unique heritage of students across Wisconsin. Check out the highlights below!

Bon voyage! **Wisconsin Heights School District** took an international tour putting a twist on Taco Tuesday, offering Taco Soup, set sail for Ireland where students enjoyed beef shepherd's pie and then found themselves in Italy with an assortment of mouthwatering pizzas. Before heading home, students sampled Asian-inspired teriyaki chicken or sweet Thai-chili chicken. What a journey!

Tri-County Area School District went on a culinary adventure sampling jackfruit and tried Asian-inspired fare with teriyaki chicken breast, quinoa and brown rice (Korean BBQ style), and homemade kimchi!

Siena Catholic Schools of Racine grabbed their passports and traveled to Germany, China, Mexico, and Italy. Students got to experience menu items like orange chicken with fried rice, stir-fried vegetables, fortune cookie, and beef tacos with spicy salsa. Yum!

Reedsville School District served a Greek themed meal! The meal included chicken shawarma over rice, Greek salad, Greek yogurt dip with pita bread, kiwi, and baklava. Overall, the students were intrigued and excited about this meal! Reedsville also held taste tests throughout the week sampling foods from Latin America, France, and the Mediterranean.

Stevens Point Area School District travelled around the world sampling entrees including chicken stir-fry, pasta with Bolognese sauce, Mexican pizza, and nachos. What a treat!



Photo: Siena Catholic Schools of Racine

Despite the challenges of serving school meals during the pandemic, different cuisines from all over the world were served, highlighting the unique heritage of students across Wisconsin.

New Breakfast Webcasts

Check out the two new breakfast webcasts, "[School Breakfast: Administering the Program](#)" and "[School Breakfast: Starting a Program](#)". These webcasts are meant to provide an overview of breakfast and provide helpful information to School Food Authority staff considering offering breakfast. The "Starting a Program" webcast also addresses common breakfast meal myths as well as breakfast service models. For more information about school breakfast, contact one of our school breakfast specialists at dpisbp@dpi.wi.gov.

Virtual SNSDC 2021

The School Nutrition Team (SNT) is pleased to announce that the School Nutrition Skills Development Courses (SNSDC) will be offered virtually for Summer 2021.

New this year, the SNT will host a limited selection of live virtual SNSDC classes during the weeks of July 19 and August 9. These classes are free of charge, however advance registration is required. SNT will email a full class listing, weekly schedules, and registration information in May. Stay tuned for more information!

All recorded course videos from SNSDC 2020 will remain available online on our [SNSDC webpage](#) and continue to fulfill requirements for the GOALS curriculum. The SNSDC 2021 virtual live classes will *not* be recorded for participant privacy purposes.

It is our sincere hope that we will be able to gather for in-person training in Summer 2022; we will strive to provide a hybrid of learning opportunities going forward.



New this year, the SNT will host a limited selection of live virtual SNSDC classes during the weeks of July 19 and August 9.

New Procurement Webpage

When visiting the [School Nutrition Procurement webpage](#), guests will notice a new, simplified layout. Our team plans to continue working on web page document updates for accessibility over the coming months. If you are having trouble locating a particular page or resource, please reach out to the procurement contract specialists for assistance.



USDA Guidance Summaries

[SP 05-2021: Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations during School Year 2020-2021 – Q&As #4](#)

This memo provides clarification on additional questions related to the operation of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) during SY 2020-2021.



[SP 06-2021: Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operating Costs During COVID-19: Implementation Guidance for State Agencies](#)

FNS is offering additional funds to State agencies administering the NSLP, SBP, and the CACFP to provide local operators of those programs with additional reimbursements for emergency operating costs they incurred during the public health emergency. This memo provides an application template, sample calculations, and a Q&A for State agencies.

[SP 09-2021: Child Nutrition Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Programs: State Agency Implementation Plan Template and Q&A Guidance](#)

This memo includes the template for State agencies to use when submitting the supplemental implementation plan for use in the Child Nutrition Emergency Operational Cost Reimbursement Programs and also includes Q&A #2.

[Contract Duration in the National School Lunch Program and Summer Food Service Program EXTENSION](#)

FNS extends the waiver, for all State agencies, school food authorities, and SFSP sponsors, the food service management company (FSMC) contracts duration requirements at 7 CFR 210.16(d) and 225.6(h)(7). This waiver allows FSMC contracts that may expire by or around June 30, 2021, and have not been extended for SY 2020-2021, to be extended through school year 2021-2022 (June 30, 2022). To ensure program integrity during this time, extended FSMC contracts are limited to one-year only. This waiver applies to State agencies administering the NSLP and SFSP.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #73 Child Nutrition Waiver Update](#)

This memo announces the extensions of needed flexibilities for summer 2021 operations for the SFSP, NSLP, and the SSO. These extensions include Child Nutrition Response #74 - 81.

USDA Guidance (cont'd)

[2021-2022 National School Lunch Program USDA Foods Entitlement Calculations](#)

The USDA has issued the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Opt-In Waiver for School Year 2021-2022 National School Lunch Program USDA Foods Entitlement Calculations. As a result, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is establishing a nationwide opt-in waiver to help minimize the impact of COVID-19 related school closures on USDA Foods entitlement calculations.

As a result of continued widespread school closures and limited access to meals due to COVID-19, fewer reimbursable meals have been served in Wisconsin this school year. These reductions would have resulted in a decrease to the USDA Foods entitlement available to our state for SY 2021-22. This would have led to a decrease in USDA Foods provided for school meals. Therefore, FNS waives Section 6(c)(1)(C) of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) for a second school year, and DPI has elected to opt-in to forego USDA's annual entitlement reconciliation. No action is required on the part of the SFA.

As a result of DPI opting into this waiver:

1. SY 2021-2022 entitlement will continue to be based on SY 2018-2019 lunch counts.
2. In the fall of 2021, entitlement will not be reconciled to actual SY 2020-2021 lunch counts and the SY 2021-2022 assigned entitlement will continue to be based on SY 2018-2019 lunch counts.
3. In the fall of 2022, DPI plans to resume reconciliation as normal. In other words, SY 2021-2022 USDA Foods entitlement would be adjusted to actual SY 2021-2022 lunch counts.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #74 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibilities for Summer 2021 Operations](#)

This waiver extends NSLP and SBP meal pattern flexibilities through summer 2021. This waiver also applies to the SSO but **does not apply to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**. Therefore, normal SFSP meal pattern requirements will resume July 1, 2021, when the previous meal pattern waiver expires. This waiver is effective July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021. As a reminder, any meal pattern flexibility requests must be submitted using the [meal pattern waiver form](#) and approved by a member of the SNT.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #75 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2021 Operations](#)

This waiver extends the Nationwide Waiver to allow Non-Congregate Feeding through September 30, 2021. This extension applies to SFSP and SSO.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #76 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for Summer 2021 Operations](#)

This waiver extends the Nationwide Waiver to allow parents and guardians to pick up meals for children through September 30, 2021. This extension applies to SFSP and SSO.

USDA Guidance (cont'd)

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #77 Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers for Summer 2021 Operations](#)

This waiver extends the Nationwide Waiver to extend area eligibility waivers through September 30, 2021. This extension applies to the SFSP and SSO.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #78 Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions for Summer 2021 Operations](#)

This waiver extends the Nationwide Waiver of meal service time restrictions through September 30, 2021. This extension applies to the SFSP and SSO.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #79 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the Summer Food Service Program for Summer 2021 Operations](#)

This waiver extends the Nationwide Waiver to allow offer versus serve flexibilities through September 30, 2021. This waiver extension applies to the SFSP.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #80 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites for Summer 2021 Operations](#)

This waiver extends the Nationwide Waiver to allow area eligibility for closed enrolled sites in the SFSP and the SSO through September 30, 2021.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #81 Nationwide Waiver to Waive First Week Site Visits in the Summer Food Service Program for Summer 2021 Operations](#)

This waiver extends the Nationwide Waiver of first week site visits in the Summer Food Service Program through September 30, 2021. This waiver extension applies to the SFSP.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #82 Nationwide Waiver of the CEP deadlines in the NSLP and SBP](#)

This waiver makes the following adjustments to annual CEP deadlines:

CEP Requirement	Annual Deadline	Waiver Deadline
Data Used to Calculate ISP	April 1	Anytime between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021
LEA Notification	April 15	June 30, 2021
State Agency Notification	April 15	June 30, 2021
State Agency Publication	May 1	June 30, 2021
Elect CEP for SY 2021-2022	June 30	September 30, 2021

[COVID- 19: Child Nutrition Response #83 Nationwide Waiver to Allow Sponsors that Successfully Participated in the SFSP in Fiscal Year 2019 to Operate as Experienced Sponsors in Fiscal Year 2021¹](#)

This waiver allows State agencies the discretion to use a streamlined application process for sponsors that did not operate the SFSP in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 due to COVID-19 but operated in FY 2019 and were in good standing. FNS is also waiving the requirement for State agencies to conduct pre-approval visits of SFSP sponsors that did not participate in FY 2020 due to COVID-19 but participated in FY 2019.

USDA Guidance (cont'd)

Child Nutrition Program Waivers for School Year 2021-22

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #84 - Child Nutrition Nationwide Waiver Update for School Year 2021-2022](#)

On April 20, 2021, USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #84 announcing a new suite of child nutrition program waivers and flexibilities to support a successful school reopening in the school year 2021-2022. The Department of Public Instruction has opted-in to all the waivers listed below.

IMPORTANT: USDA FNS expects schools to use the flexibilities for only the duration and extent that they are needed. As a reminder, the Department of Public Instruction School Nutrition Team will report to USDA FNS on the use and results of the waivers and thus require school food authorities (SFAs) to respond to future surveys related to the waivers.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #85 - Nationwide Waiver to Allow the Seamless Summer Option through School Year 2021-2022](#)

FNS is allowing Seamless Summer Option (SSO) operations to continue when school is open during the regular school year, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This waiver is available to all SFAs and may be used at any school, regardless of its location or the type of SSO site it is operating. This waiver gives school foodservice professionals greater flexibility to distribute meals at a variety of safe meal sites that serve a smaller number of children, including serving meals outdoors or in classrooms. SFAs may choose to serve meals through SSO or may participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs instead. SFAs are not required to participate in SSO.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #86 - Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement Rates in School Year 2021-2022](#)

This waiver allows SFAs to claim National School Lunch Program SSO meals and snacks at the applicable Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) reimbursement rates in school year 2021-2022. This will provide SFAs with additional support to cover the significant costs associated with COVID-19 operations. This waiver is effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #87 - Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Meal Service for School Year 2021-2022](#)

This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and is extended to SSO. It is effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Non-congregate feeding flexibilities provide schools the opportunity to provide meal pick-up options for students learning virtually and facilitate grab-and-go meals for students in schools. This waiver is intended to provide needed flexibility to support schools in continuing to offer nutritious meals while safely and successfully reopening. Flexibilities under this waiver should be implemented by program operators until such a time when greater levels of congregation in school settings are safe and healthy to pursue.

USDA Guidance (cont'd)

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #88 - Nationwide Waiver of Meal Times Requirements for School Year 2021-2022](#)

This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and is extended to SSO. FNS waives the set meal-time parameters for school lunch and school breakfast. These flexibilities support a successful school reopening by facilitating a safe, efficient, and socially-distanced meal service. This waiver is effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Flexibilities under the waiver should be implemented until such a time when greater levels of congregation in school settings are safe and healthy to pursue.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #89 - Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for School Year 2021-2022](#)

This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and is extended to SSO. FNS recognizes that in this public health emergency, requiring children to come to the meal site to pick up meals may not be practical. This flexibility will help local program operators safely distribute meals to all children, including children who may be learning virtually in the upcoming school year. Meals may be distributed to a parent or guardian to take home to their children. Processes to ensure that meals are distributed only to parents or guardians of eligible children and that duplicate meals are not distributed to any child must be in place to maintain accountability and program integrity. This waiver is effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. However, flexibilities under this waiver should be implemented until such a time when greater levels of congregation in school settings are safe and healthy to pursue.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #90 - Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific School Meal Pattern Flexibility for School Year 2021-2022](#)

This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and is extended to the National School Lunch Program's SSO. FNS will continue to offer certain meal pattern flexibilities through June 30, 2022: sodium, whole grains, vegetable subgroups, variety of milk, low-fat flavored milk, and grade groupings. USDA expects and strongly encourages program operators to maintain and meet the nutrition standards for each program to the greatest extent possible. Flexibility requests must be justified and continue to be submitted and approved by a member of the SNT. These new flexibilities will be available October 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Further information and a link to the waiver request form will be made available closer to October 2021. The current Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver will expire September 30, 2021; program operators utilizing the current waiver and who wish to maintain their current flexibilities will need to submit a new waiver request once it is available.

USDA Guidance (cont'd)

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #92 - Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibility for Senior High Schools in School Year 2021-2022](#)

This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program and is extended to SSO. This waiver is effective from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. FNS waives the requirement to serve school lunches to senior high school students using offer versus serve. This waiver will help support schools reopening safely this school year.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #93 - Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs and for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-2022](#)

This waiver applies to afterschool snacks served to children through the National School Lunch Program Afterschool Snack Service. This waiver is effective from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. FNS is allowing schools, regardless of their location, to claim all afterschool snacks at the free rate.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #94 - Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meal Programs - Revised - EXTENSION 3](#)

In this waiver, FNS extends its waiver of school meal programs onsite monitoring requirements for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and the requirement to complete the onsite portion of the administrative review during the school year in which the review was begun. More information to come as to what this means for SFAs.

The DPI SNT expects further guidance to be provided regarding the above nationwide waivers and will share this information once received. If you have questions related to these waivers, please email them to dpifns@dpi.wi.gov so that we can review and provide answers to your questions through a Q&A document.

About Us

School Nutrition News is published three times per year by the Department of Public Instruction.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
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